GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3796
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2016
Unsafe Runways
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some airports in the country which have small runways and are situated in small and crowded areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of these airports in the country are unsafe for the operation of big aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for expansion of such runways?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. There are some airports in the country like Ludhiana Airport in Punjab, Kota Airport in Rajasthan, Cooch Behar Airport in West Bengal, Patna Airport in Bihar and Rajkot Airport in Gujarat have small runway and are situated in small and crowded areas.;

(c) : Runway of a particular airport is developed for operation of a specific type of aircraft depending on the traffic demand, availability of land etc. The runway designed for smaller aircraft is not safe for bigger aircraft. ;

(d) : Runway of Ludhiana, Kota and Cooch Behar airports are suitable for operation of aircraft upto ATR type. Operation of runways at Patna and Rajkot airports are restricted upto A-320 and B-737 aircraft respectively. Expansion of runways of Patna, Kota and Rajkot airports have been found not feasible due to land constraints on account of all around habitations around these airports. ;
Expansion of runways and Upgradation of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Airports Authority of India from time to time depending on the operational requirements, traffic demand, commercial viability, availability of land etc.